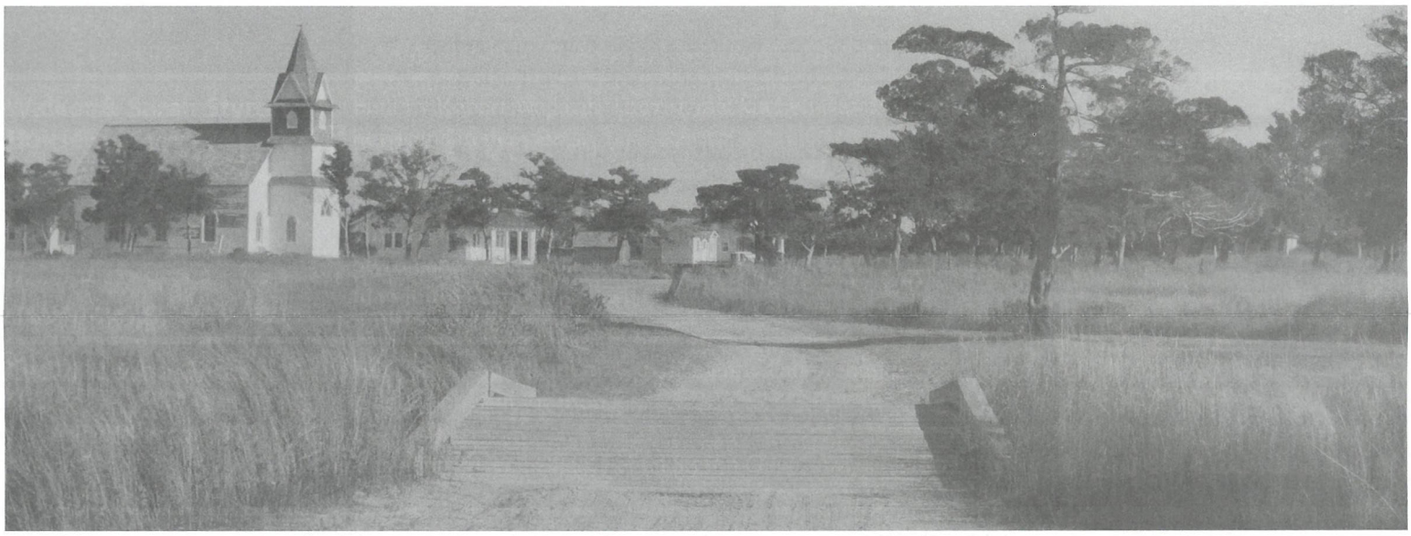
Cape Lookout

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Lookout National Seashore
North Carolina

Portsmouth Village Lives



Although the last residents left in 1971, Portsmouth Village lives on through the stories of the people who once called this secluded spot home.

Theodore & Anne Salter House / Visitor Center
Built circa 1905

Built by Joe Dixon, moved in the 1930's by Theodore Salter; only house plumbed for gas

Residents: Joseph & Lorena Dixon; Theodore Salter and Annie Dixon Salter (post mistress) and their five children; Salter Hunting Club- hunters stayed at the house; pen out back with live geese for decoys.

Exhibits Inside

Post Office and General Store
Built circa 1900

Built with warehouse adjoining, warehouse no longer standing.

A gathering place for people of Portsmouth. Mail was brought to Portsmouth from Ocracoke and Morehead City by boat; Alfred Dixon, suceeded by his son, Carl Dixon, got the mail by skiff and brought it too the PO by wheelbarrow. Annie Dixon Salter and her daughter Dorothy Salter were the last two post masters.

Exhibits Inside

Walker & Sarah Styron House
Built circa 1850

12-3-13

Built by Robert Wallace. The original kitchen was destroyed by a hurricane in the 1920's.

Residents: 1837 Robert Wallace and family; 1882 John and Theresa Grace and two sons; 1911 Amanda Jane Dixon; 1927 Sarah Roberts Styron and Coast Guardsman Walker Styron and one daughter; 1949 Joffre L. and Lillian M. Coe.

Cecil & Leona Gilgo House
Built circa 1905

Built on Sheep Island, 1935-36 dismantled and rebuilt by Cecil Gilgo at present location

Residents: Cecil Gilgo, Leona Styron Gilgo, and daughter Hazel

School House
Built circa 1927

First school, circa 1800, was a private academy located in Middle Community. This was the second school in Middle Community.

One room building with one teacher for grades 1-8, sessions September to May 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. The school closed in 1943 due to a lack of students

Exhibits Inside

Jody Styron and Tom Bragg House
Built circa 1927

Built by Jodie Styron, Tom Bragg, and Harry Dixon as a hunting and fishing club.

Residents: Jodie Styron, Annie Hubbard "Hub" Bragg Styron and Tom Bragg. *This house is under a Private Lease.*

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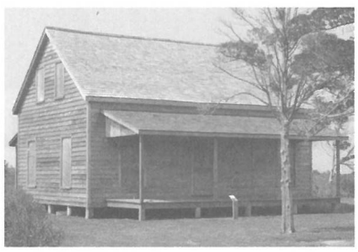
George & Patsy Dixon House
Built circa 1875

The attached kitchen blew off in a cyclone.

Residents: George Circa. Dixon, Solomon "George" Dixon, wife Martha Williams "Patsy" Dixon and children Ed, Harry, Nora, Lillian, and Elma

Patsy ran a store and George worked as night watchman at fish plant on Casey Island where he suffered fatal burns in a fire.



Methodist Church
Built circa 1914

Built to replace second church destroyed by 1913 storm; first church destroyed in 1899 storm. Keeper Charlie McWilliams raised money to rebuild.

Church services discontinued in 1956.

The church is open to the public during the summer season.

Ed, Nora, & Elma Dixon House
Built circa 1910

Built by Simon Garrish, located next to the stables at the Life-Saving Station.

Residents: Simon Garrish; 1915 to 1937 various USLSS/CG men; 1937 sold to Ed Dixon, moved and kitchen added; Nora and Elma Dixon moved in; Elma one of last 2 residents living in the village. *This house is under a Private Lease.*

Washington Roberts House
Built circa 1840

Built by Zacharrah Styron, this is the oldest house surviving in Portsmouth Village, nicknamed the "Hurricane House"

Residents: 1849 David Ireland; 1889 Washington Roberts, mother, and 2 sisters; 1930 Joe Abbot

Jesse & Lillian Babb House
Built 1916

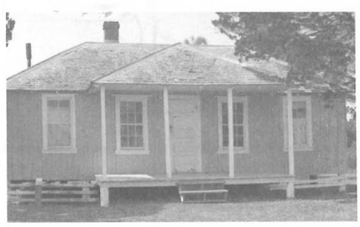
Gutted and rebuilt by Jesse Babb in 1927

Residents: Jesse Babb, Lillian Dixon Babb, daughters Edna Earl, Marian Gray, and Jessie Lee. Marian was one of last 2 residents living in the village. *This house is under a Private Lease.*

Lionel & Emma Gilgo House
Built circa 1926

Built by Roy Robinson on Coast Guard property at the site of the Marine Hospital.

Residents: 1926 Roy Robinson and family; 1931 Coast Guardsmen; 1938 house moved for Lionel Gilgo, and Emma Hunnings Gilgo and children; 1942 the family moved from Portsmouth when school closed. *This house is under a Private Lease.*



U.S. Life-Saving Station
Built 1894

During the first 20 years, Keepers and Surfmen in this Station assisted over 85 vessels. The most well known was the rescue of Vera Cruz VII in May 1903 (399 passengers and 22 crew members were rescued).

In 1915, the USLSS was combined with the Revenue Cutter Service to become the U.S. Coast Guard; the station was decommissioned in 1937; it reopened for a few years during WWII.

Exhibits Inside

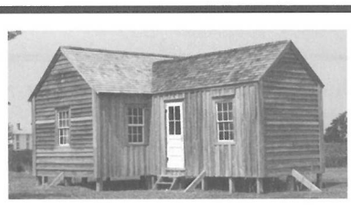
Henry Pigott House
circa 1902

Built by Harmon Austin sold to Rosa Pigott in 1904

Residents: Leah Pigott and seven children including Henry and Lizzie; Henry was the village's last male resident: he died in 1971.

Other Structures to View

Carl Dixon House *(Lease)*



Tom Gilgo House

Harry & Lida Dixon House